

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07

RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /198 W
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P R 051812Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 064

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 1360

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, XF, PFOR

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRESS REACTION TO EC-ARAB COOPERATION PROPOSALS

1. ALL MAJOR BELGIAN PAPERS GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO EC-9
DECISION TO PROCEED WITH PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION WITH ARAB
STATES. MOST COVERAGE PURSUES THEME THAT ALTHOUGH EC-9
ARE NOT ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON OTHER ISSUES, THEY COULD
EXPEDITIOUSLY ON EC-ARAB COOPERATION. SEVERAL PAPERS RELATER
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ACTION TO EC-9 DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE INDEPENDENCE. IMPORTANT

INDEPENDENT LE SOIR, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIES HEADLINE,
"WISHING TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT POLICY IN NEAR EAST:
EUROPE TO OFFER COOPERATIO TO ALL ARAB COUNTRIES."
UNDER TITLE DECLARING, " DIFFICULT MEETING IN BRUSSELS:
AGREEMENT ON ONE POINT-- COOPERATION WITH ARABS," CONSERVATIVE
CATHOLIC LA LIBRE BELGIQUE WRITES, "MONDAY NIGHT IMPRESSION
PREVAILED THAT EUROPE HAD RECOVERED ITS SELF-CONTROL. THREE WEEKS
AFTER SAD EXPERIENCE IN WASHINGTON IT HAS SUCCEED IN TAKING AN
INITIATIVE OF ITS OWN REGARDING ENERGY, AMONG OTHER THINGS,
AN INITIATIVE WHICH DISINGUISHES IT FROM AMERICAN PROJECTS".
MANY PAPERS INCLUDING LA LIBRE BELGIQUE AND LE SOIR, HOWEVER,
STRESS STATEMENT BY BELGIAN FONMIN VAN ELSLANDE AND GERMAN
FONMIN SCHEEL THAT PROPOSALS ARE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST US POLICY
IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. ON QUESTION OF US REACTION, LA LIBRE BELGIQUE INTERPRETS
STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT US DOES NOT SEEK VETO OVER
EC-9 ACTION AS INDICATING THAT US SEES NO PROBLEM IN PROPOSALS.
MAJORITY OF PAPERS, HOWEVER, EITHER RESERVE JUDGMENT ON THIS
POINT OF FORESSE NEGATIVE REACTION BY US. CHARLEROI'S INDEPENDENT
NOUVELLE GAZETTE CALLS COOPERATION PROPOSALS "SETBACK" FOR
SECRETARY, WHILE SOCIALIST LA WALLONIE SUGGESTS PROPOSALS NOT
"TO HIS LIKING". IN MORE DIRECT COMMENT, FLEMISH RADIO NOTED
THAT US WOULD NOT BE PLEASED BY DECISION OF NINE OR IMPRESSED
BY "FACADE" OF EUROPEAN UNITY.

3. MUCH PRESS COVERAGE ALSO POINTS TO FACT THAT COOPERATION
PROPOSALS DO NOT DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH ENERGY. IN THIS REGARD
CATHOLIC LABOR LA CITE TAKES POSITION THAT "QUESTION OF OIL
WAS NOT AVOIDED BY DROWNED IN MANY OTHER "EXAMPLES" OF MUTUAL
AGREEMENT... EXPLANATION IS EASY: BY MAKING THIS OPENING TOWARD
ARAB WORLD, NINE SOUGHT NOT TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON IMBROGLIO
WHICH EXPOSED THEIR DIVISIONS TO BROAD DAYLIGHT."
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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